

(e) the amount required for the present work?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (a) Makaram 1117.

(b) No definite date was fixed for the completion of the work on account of the present situation.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) Normally before the middle of Chingom 1120.

(e) It is not possible to ascertain the actual amount now.

Nagampadam Bridge.

26. * **MR. V. MADHAVAN** (*Vaikom cum Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state why the repair works of the Nagampadam bridge in Kottayam town are not yet completed, and when they expect to complete it?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: The reconstruction of the bridge (not repairs) was delayed on account of the present difficulty in getting the required iron and timber materials.

The work is expected to be completed before the middle of Chingom 1120.

Government servants and elections.

27. * **MR. K. A. MATHEW:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have issued a notification prohibiting Government servants from taking part in the recent elections to the Travancore Legislature beyond recording of their votes;

(b) whether they have received representations from any organisation or persons complaining about the infringement of this notification by officers of the Government; and

(c) what action they have taken against those who violated Government instructions?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The allegations that have reached them do not warrant any action as Government are satisfied that they are unfounded.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether there were specific allegations made by anybody?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There were no specific allegations, and such allegations as were received, were found to be absolutely unfounded.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Was an impartial enquiry made by anybody?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Government have made their own enquiries in the matter.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Has anybody been asked to make impartial enquiries?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Government are presumably impartial, and the honourable member, I think, seems to be making an insinuation against the Government.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: What I want to know is whether anybody has asked Government to make an impartial enquiry?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The President of the State Congress has requested the Government to start an impartial enquiry by a tribunal, and a reply has been given to him.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara cum Trivandrum*): May I know whether notice was given before the Government made enquiries?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There was no notice required.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether natural justice does not require that sufficient notice should be given to the parties before enquiries are made?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There is no question of natural justice arising in the matter.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government kindly enquire why natural justice does not arise in this case?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The matter is one of opinion.

SAHIB BAHADUR P. S. MAHOMED: ഒരു എൻക്വയറി നടത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് തോന്നിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Government do not consider that the allegations that were received warranted a public enquiry.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: May I know whether an election petition can cover questions on enquiry and interference by Government, etc.?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That is a matter to be considered by the election Court on the filing of an election petition.

PRESIDENT: As this matter refers to correspondence that took place between me and the person who wanted a public enquiry I think I have in my capacity as Dewan, to make a statement.

Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai, referring to various Officers of Government stated that he had heard that there were serious cases of infringement of the instructions and directions issued by Government, and wanted a public enquiry to be held. There were no particulars given, but there were general allegations. Government came to the conclusion that there must be more material and much more convincing proof for a public enquiry to be ordered. And, therefore, they stated that there were no grounds on which an enquiry could be initiated. If, on the other hand, an election petition were put in by anybody who alleged that his election was interfered with in a particular manner, there would be a judicial tribunal which will deal with the matter, and in my reply to Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai, I said that until and unless such election petitions were put in and specific allegations as to undue influence were made and proved, Government could

not do anything. I have also added in my reply that it would be most embarrassing to order a public enquiry if after the results of that public enquiry, there was to be a judicial tribunal deliberating on the matter which might or might not agree with the results of that enquiry. In order to avoid that kind of conflict or possible conflict, Government stated in their reply to Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai that they were not prepared to have any enquiry.

The Chief Secretary will please place on the table of the Secretary to the Assembly the correspondence on this matter.

Elections to the Legislature.

28. * MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director of Public Instruction has given any specific direction or directions written or otherwise to the managers and teachers of grant-in-aid schools regarding their conduct in the recent elections to the Legislature;

(b) whether any direction has been given during elections of this kind on previous occasions and if there has been a deviation in the policy of the Government this time what was the reason for such deviation and if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative what were the directions given; and

(c) whether any rule or law exists prohibiting or controlling the managers and teachers of grant-in-aid schools being candidates or agents in elections to the Legislature and local bodies and if so what is the rule or law?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) There is no rule or law to the effect. Those who applied for permission were permitted to stand as candidates for election provided the Managers of their schools agreed.

Circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction.

29. * MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapalli cum Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director of Public Instruction issued a circular to the managers and teachers of aided schools directing them not to participate in the elections except by exercising their votes;

(b) whether Messrs. Mannathu Padmanabha Pillai and M. Govindan who are managers of aided schools indulged in active canvassing both through the Press and the platform in contravention of the circular; and

(c) whether any case of aided school teachers and managers acting as the authorised polling agents of N. S. S. and S. N. D. P. candidates has come to the notice of the Government?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : (a) No.

(b) This does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

(c) No.